
T H E

C R I S I S.

N U M B E R, LXXX, *To be continued every Saturday,*
DURING THE PRESENT BLOODY CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

SATURDAY, July 27, 1776, Price Two-pence Half-penny.

Continued from our last.



PROSECUTE those who expose the licentiousness of power, and imprison the subject for delivering truths---declare the means of obtaining redress of grievances, high treason---seize private property by military force---insult the sovereign, by establishing a religion professedly intolerant, perfidious, and Bloody---pervert the course of justice, and finally carry desolation, ruin, and wonton cruelty, through the peaceful vales of industry! Does such an uncontrolled barbarous phrenzy of oppressing, accord with the benign, liberal genius of the British nation, and the maxims under which we have prospered for ages? Were the laws of nature the ends of government, the principles of religion, the constitution, or the finer feelings of humanity, consulted? Does it not excite astonishment, that brutal power and the influence of the treasury, could have thus debauched the principles, and affections of a British legislature?

Legislature? Have not such violent outrages excited most alarming apprehensions in the breast of every sober minded man, both in England and America? and must eventually justify a firm, intrepid resistance in both countries? Have we not reason to apprehend, that the expiring virtue of Britain, the pride, profligacy, avarice, luxury, and effeminacy, into which she has sunk, will shortly call down the righteous vengeance of heaven, unless there is a speedy change in the system of these affairs?

In the course of human events, those who fall on such outrageous measures, and daringly dispise the remonstrances of the people, will most assuredly fall victims to their own arbitrary contrivances. What ever may be the language of court sycophants, we, notwithstanding, find, that though they had stoned the kings treasurer to death, and taken up arms against their lawful king, yet God himself would not support even his own theocracy, in the oppression of the people.*

Fathers provoke not your children to anger, is a divine precept, founded on an intimate knowledge of the feelings and conduct of men. "When once they begin to be in earnest against those who would enslave them, their power is irresistible".

The great author of nature, has so linked causes, and their correspondent effects, that we find even those princes were *sic volo, sic jubeo, siet prout voluntas*, is the express written in the law of the land, do nevertheless frequently fall a sacrifice to their own slaves, when pushed to the last extremities. How many Turkish monarchs have been strangled by their own eunuchs? How few of the Roman emperors died natural deaths, though they had their Court Jannissaries and prætorian bands to protect them? The wheels of government do not depend alone upon the secret machinations of a court cabinet, or the policy of princes. Nature has its laws, and when her rights are trampled upon, she will find executioners. The observation is founded on historical facts, and contains an admirable lesson for the direction of our conduct in the present critical juncture. I do not mean to threaten or inform: the first would be rashness, the last presumption. But I conceive it is the duty of every member of the community, to warn those who are going down a precipice of their danger. We are passing the rubicon; and however it may be received this side

* Chron. Book II. Chap. XI.

the Water, by an in fatuated Administration, it is a solemn truth ; the people we are contending with, are three millions in number, and hold in their hands the richest veins of our commerce, the source of our power and opulence. What then are we to think of the present contest? it is a disease which affects life, and, as it spreads fast, the remedy must be speedily administered. Every temporary violent quack medicine has been tried, they have exasperated the disease, and if not immediately discontinued, will shortly put the malady beyond all manner of prescription. The affection of these millions of people, situated as they are at the distance of three thousand miles, with so many distinguishing peculiarities, in soil and climate, are not to be despised or insulted : Commerce is not a matter of compulsion : no dominion is good but what is lasting : to make it permanent it must be founded on love and interest, otherwise we shall fix such a deep rooted rancor, in the minds of the Colonists, which we shall never be able to eradicate, and must eventually reap the bitter fruits of. This general proposition, true in all conditions, becomes more evident, when applied to a country, doubling by its own growth in five and twenty years, besides the accession of foreigners, and must, in fifty, equal the present inhabitants of Great Britain, and Ireland.

While we are thus valiantly, over-leaping the bounds of law, and the constitution, it might be prudent to reflect that they have a numerous well disciplined militia, who are as yet hardy, brave determined, and undebauched, by the effeminacy of the present age, and we an immense national debt of a hundred and forty millions to discharge. Thus circumstanced, is alieniating the affections of a brave spirited people, drying up the distant springs of our commerce and revenue, become the primary object of our policy ? Will such a system of measures furnish raw materials for our manufactures, naval stores for our ships, multiply seamen, increase the value of our lands, enrich our merchants, pay our debts, feed our poor, furnish employment for our labouring people, decrease the interest of the national debt, or enable us to meet our natural enemies in another war ? Can the history of mankind furnish an example of a nation exhausted by its own efforts, and trembling under its own weight, destroying its own markets, ruining its own resources, massacring its customers, who

who supply her with those things, essentially necessary to her, taking in return, the fruits of her industry, at her own price, balancing the difference with their gold and silver?

It is an incontrovertable truth, that a branch of commerce, once lost, is irretrievably lost; no human institutions will be able to direct it into its antient channels. The present fruitless endeavours of Parliament, to restore the Spanish trade to Jamaica, from whence it was injudiciously drove, by the interference of government, is a strange flagrant proof of the position, and one would imagine, affords a useful lesson to those, who would profit by experience. The interest of the merchants, if left to the natural bias of their own inclinations, is the interest of the community at large; as the individual becomes rich, so must the state to which they belong; the legislature here can do little more than give encouragement, and protection to the commerce, when ever much more is attempted, she commits *sebo de se*, and repentance follows close at her heels.

The Colonies are, in general, inhabited by men of small fortunes, four-fifths of whom, are employed in agriculture, and, if left in the peaceable possession of their indubitable rights, would never think of entering into manufactures; if they be permitted a reasonable trade, it would be neither their inclination, nor their interest, to contend with old and popular countries, which must be able to excell them in cheapness, and workmanship; but, if the present obnoxious scheme is pursued, it will drive them into habits of œconomy, and the necessity of promoting manufactures among themselves, and convince us, that nothing is too difficult for men to effect, whose hearts are filled with a generous love to their country.

It was palpable blundering, to restrain the trade of the Colonies to the foreign plantation in the West Indies, and prohibit the paper currency. These were the resources, from whence they were enabled to make their remittances, to the British merchants at home, and at the same time, increased the vent of our manufactures abroad, thereby converting them into British Colonies, without the expence of protection. Britain ought to be contented with her sovereignty in commerce.

commerce. The Colonists demand, only an exemption from parliamentary taxations, as a *right*, recognizing the supremacy of Britain, every other instance. Her prosperity and strength depends upon commanding a market for her manufactures, and their supplying her with such articles, in preference to other nations, as are essential to her manufactures, and her strength at sea: hence their importance to her. This will produce all the advantages she ought to wish, or they can grant, consistent with the duty they owe us, and themselves; any further restrictions is risking all, by being in too great haste to gain; distressing them, without enriching ourselves.

Our foreign trade is confessedly lost, or very much decayed; other nations have interfered with us, and the boasted omnipotence of Parliament, cannot extend to them; they have each a commerical police of their own, and we have already felt the inconvenience of their commercial regulations; so as to induce us to lay large bounties upon such articles, as they used to furnish us with, to encourage the importation of them from our Colonies, which has made us almost independant on the world, in point of Trade but if the present contest should continue, the balance of trade with foreign countries, will be so much against us, for raw materials to supply our manufactures, as will shortly render us, from being one of the most opulent, the most indigent nation in Europe, and threaten our very existence as a state, in short the benefit of the Northern Colonies, have been hitherto immense; "before their settlement, says Devenant, our manufacturers were few, and those but indifferent; and the number of English merchants and the whole shipping of the nation, much inferior to what belongs to the Northern Colonies alone"; they are essential to the strength, and form the very basis of the British power.

All these advantages, must, if wise system is pursued, and we return to the antient policy of the kingdom, be encreased in the same proportion as they encrease. If our successes are wisely improved, the last glorious war, will prove profitable to the nation, the vast encrease of the national debt notwithstanding. By the conquest of Canada, we have acquired, the dominion of all North America; and henceforth, by expeditions from that Continent, in conjunction with

a British fleet, we may be in a condition to seize, all the West India islands at pleasure, humble France and Spain, and secure the tranquillity of Europe.

The West India produce, imported into France, in 1754, was near ten million sterling; she holds these sources of wealth, at the mercy of Britain! What an immense operation in favour of the revenue! an object much more worthy for a great ministers attention, than wantonly laying waste the rights and properties of the subject, governing by corruption, and influence, and throwing the whole empire into confusion, by vigorously enforcing unconstitutional claims.

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